

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2019-290-WS - ORDER NO. 2022-285

APRIL 19, 2022

IN RE: Application of Blue Granite Water Company)	ORDER GRANTING
for Approval to Adjust Rate Schedules and)	RECONSIDERATION OF
Increase Rates)	ORDER NO. 2022-114
)	
)	

I. INTRODUCTION

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“the Commission”) on the Petitions for Reconsideration of Commission Order No. 2022-114 (“the Petitions”) filed by Blue Granite Water Company (“Blue Granite” or “the Company”) and the Office of Regulatory Staff (“ORS”). The Petitions for Reconsideration pertain to the portion of Order No. 2022-114 which required Blue Granite to file a motion asking for action on the Rates-Under-Bond-Deferral as soon as possible, but not later than fifteen (15) days from the date of the Order.

II. ANALYSIS

In the Petitions and at oral argument, the parties to this proceeding explained that it was impossible for Blue Granite to comply with the portion of the Order requiring Blue Granite to address the deferral balance until the remand issues were resolved. According to the Company and agreed to by ORS and the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs, there is “an order of operations” that must be completed. This means, according to the parties, that the remand issues must be resolved and the effective date of those changes

must be known before Blue Granite can provide the information sought in Order No. 2022-114 related to the deferral amount.

The Company requested in its Petition for Reconsideration that the Commission stay the requirement of Order No. 2022-114 requiring Blue Granite to file its motion asking for action on the deferral prior to the effective date of the remand rates being established. Blue Granite asserted that it could not include specific information on the impact on customers rates of the deferral account without resolution of the remand issues, since the timing of the remand resolution and the ensuing effective date for changes in base rates must be known to quantify the deferral balance and any resulting customer impacts. In support of the Company's position, ORS asserted in its Petition that it cannot review and verify the Company's deferral balance until the remand issues are resolved and new base rates are effective.

Upon review, the Commission agrees with this reasoning and grants reconsideration of Order No. 2022-114, insomuch as it addresses consideration of the remand and the deferral in a single proceeding. Although this was the intent of Order No. 2022-114, the Commission is convinced by the Petitions for Reconsideration and the oral arguments that the consideration of both in one proceeding is not possible. Accordingly, all hearings required by Order No. 2022-114 will be cancelled.

III. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Both the Company and ORS have filed Petitions for Reconsideration of Order No. 2022-114.

2. Order No. 2022-114 required Blue Granite to file a motion asking for action on the Rates-Under-Bond-Deferral as soon as possible, but not later than fifteen (15) days from the date of the Order.

3. It is impossible for the Commission to address the deferral balance until the remand issues are resolved.

4. The remand issues must be resolved and the effective date of those changes must be known before Blue Granite can provide the information sought in Order No. 2022-114 related to the deferral amount.

5. ORS cannot review and verify the Company's deferral balance until the remand issues are resolved and new base rates are effective.

6. The consideration of both the remand and the deferral in one proceeding is not possible.

IV. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Petitions for Reconsideration of Order No. 2022-114 should be granted inasmuch as they address consideration of the remand and the deferral in a single proceeding by Order No. 2022-114.

2. All hearings required by Order No. 2022-114 should be cancelled.

V. ORDERING PARAGRAPHS

1. The Petitions for Reconsideration are granted with regard to the findings in Order No. 2022-114's consideration of both the remand and the deferral in one proceeding.

2. The hearings required by Order No. 2022-114 are cancelled.

3. The portion of Order No. 2022-114 which required Blue Granite to file a motion asking for action on the Rates-Under-Bond-Deferral as soon as possible, but not later than fifteen (15) days from the date of the Order, is vacated.

4. That this Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Justin T. Williams, Chairman
Public Service Commission of
South Carolina